Tiger Pride

2009

Year-End Achievement Report

Hollidaysburg Area School District

Hollidaysburg Area School District
201 Jackson Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
www.tigerwires.com

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Tiger Pride 2009

In 1970, the current Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School opened. I remember it well, as I was a student in the junior class. Little did I know that almost forty years later, I would be the superintendent during the renovation of that school.

Since public education began in Hollidaysburg in the 1800s, the Boards of Education have always recognized the need to maintain the schools in the district. In 1996, the current junior high school was renovated. It initially was built in 1930 and underwent a renovation and addition in 1958. It stood as the junior and senior high school until 1970.

The comprehensive renovation of the current high school is well-underway. In fact, the first phase of the construction should be nearing completion this fall. The project should be completed by February 2011. The renovation of the high school will upgrade the current facilities and provide an outstanding school that will serve this district's students for the better part of the 21st century. Information pertaining to the renovation project is included in this edition of *Tiger Pride*.

I am very proud of the tradition of excellence in the Hollidaysburg Area School District. Our objective is to help our students become life-long learners and outstanding citizens of our community and our nation.

In this edition of *Tiger Pride* we showcase some of the accomplishments of our students and teachers. We are fortunate to have so many hard-working and dedicated individuals, who have brought well-deserved recognition to themselves, their schools, and to our district.

Congratulations to the students and staff who have experienced great achievements during this past school year in academics, the arts, and athletics. We recognize your success and we commend you.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Gallagher, D.Ed
Superintendent

Mission Statement

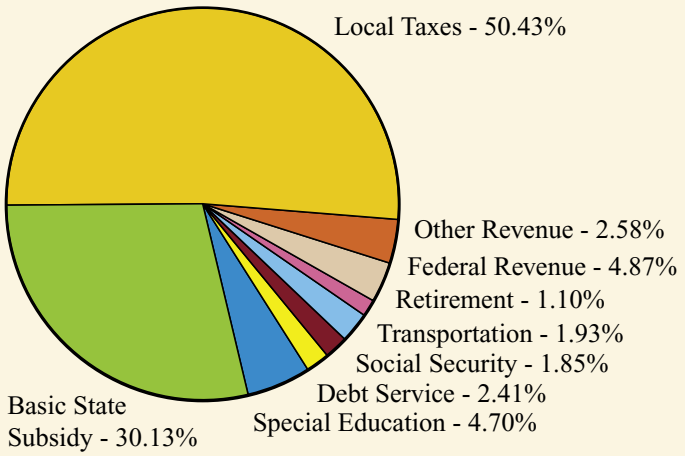
The mission of the Hollidaysburg Area School District is to empower all students to achieve their best … every day.

Tiger Pride is published annually for the Hollidaysburg Area School District community. Please direct comments or suggestions for this publication to: Linda Russo, Director of Public Relations, 814 696-0733; e-mail: Linda_Russo@tigerwires.com.

The Hollidaysburg Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate in employment or the provision of programs and services to students based on race, gender, religion, age, national origin, or handicap

2009–10 Revenue Budget

Sources of Funds



Total Revenues of $43,846,847

Population of HASD Community

Families	9,926
Adults	20,608
Children under 18	5,245

HASD Enrollment

Building	**Number of Students**
Allegheny #1	216
Charles W. Longer	344
Foot of Ten	517
Frankstown	681
Junior High School	878
Senior High School	950
Total Enrollment	3,586

School District Personnel

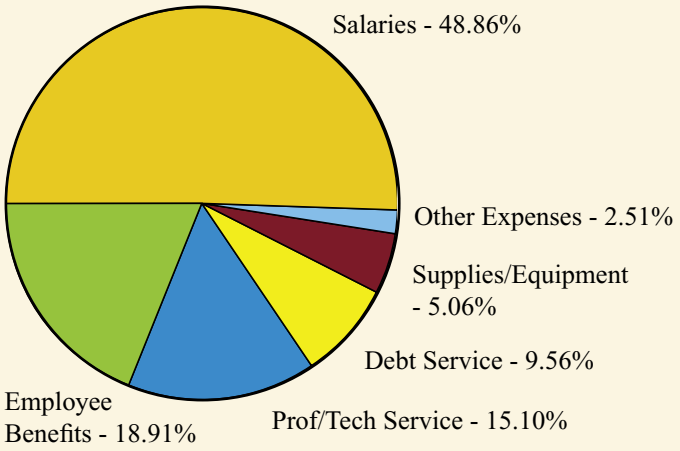
Faculty	284
Support Staff	183
Administrative Staff	24

Faculty Experience

Five years or less	32%
Six to ten years	23%
Eleven to nineteen years	25%
Twenty years or more	20%
Master's degree or beyond	54%

2009–10 Expenditure Budget

Uses of Funds



Total Expenditures of $43,335,786

Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School Renovation Budget

Project Costs

Constructions Costs, Architectural Fees, Movable Fixtures, Equipment, & Site Costs	$32,044,212
Contingency Fees	$1,000,000
Additional Costs	$469,643
Financing Costs	$1,822,427
Total Cost	$35,336,281

Revenue Sources

Amount Financed	$31,885,000
Interest Earnings	$2,227,164
Local Funds	$1,178,774
Original Bond Issue Discount	$45,343
Total Revenue	$35,336,281

What is included in the renovation?

This is a comprehensive renovation of the entire high school. It will be completed in four phases. Seven to 12 classrooms will be renovated during each phase to minimize disruption. The science wing expansion will begin during phase 2 and will be complete in phase 4.

Phase 1 -- Includes the administration area, guidance offices, building entrance, art classrooms, most of the parking lot and driveways, and 12 core classrooms. The geothermal wells will also be installed during this phase, and the new gymnasium and music/theater addition will be built.

Phase 2 – Includes auditorium, stage, auditorium lobby, greenhouse, existing music area, wrestling room, and seven classrooms. In addition, five new classrooms, plus the cardio fitness room, and weight room will be built in the existing gym.

Phase 3 – Includes the woodshop, kitchen, cafeteria, attendance office, Dean of Student's office, classrooms, and the locker room area.

Phase 4 – The remaining classrooms, library, computer lab, and locker area will be renovated, and the former boiler room will become a garage and storage area.

We are very grateful to our Hollidaysburg Area School District family for your support and patience during this project.

The projected completion date is February 2011.

Thank you to Dona Kirk, HASD secretary for her hard work on this publication, to the junior high school journalism students, and to the many HASD teachers who contributed information and articles.

Attention HASD Alumni:

If you have information about your class reunion that you would like to have posted to the HASD web-site, please email dona_kirk@tigerwires.com.

Congratulations

Valedictorian
Ian Swanson

Salutatorian
Milan Patel

2008 AP SCHOLARS

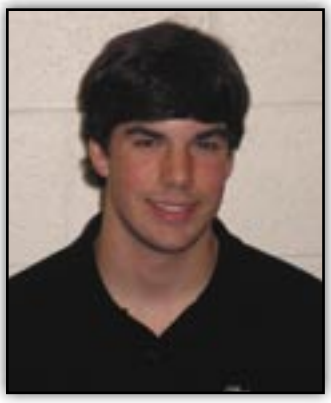
The dedication and hard work of our students and our faculty are reflected in the number of students being recognized for their remarkable performance on the 2008 Advanced Placement (AP) Exams. Forty students, 32% of our total number of students taking part in the Advanced Placement Program in 2007-08, earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board. In 2007, the national average of AP Scholars for all participating students was 19%. Of these forty students, twenty-three were seniors and the remaining seventeen were juniors.

To be recognized as an AP Scholar, a student must receive a score of three or higher out of a possible five on three or more AP Exams.

Students named AP Scholars include: Ashley Baronner, Matthew Begley, Jeremy Conrad, Matthew Gaydis, Miloufar Gharib, Kathryn Hite, James McKibbin, Rachel Moyer, Andrew Pramuk, Whitney Rahoi, Matthew Recker, Matthew Rhodes, Jennifer Sabol, Nadine Schelling, Erica Schmidt, Zachary Seymour, Megan Van Buren, and Paige Wirth.

Of these forty scholars, nine also achieved at the next level of recognition, AP Scholar with Honor. To earn this recognition a student must earn an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of three or higher on four or more exams. Students recognized at the level of AP Scholar with Honor include: David Beckstead, Rachel Blinn, Tommi Ann Church, Krista Heslop, Sean McMahon, Nicholas Moses, Luke Ottaway, Kathryn Schmidt and Megan Smithmyer.

In addition, thirteen students excelled at an even more rigorous level of performance, AP Scholar with Distinction. This recognition is earned by achieving an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of three or higher on five or more exams. AP Scholar with Distinction students include: Cheryl Augenstein, Christopher Budd, Richard Conrad, Erica Damato, Alex Harshberger, Samantha Holliday, Kelsey Kavanaugh, Emily McConnell, Andrew Menard, Milan Patel, Shawn Shumaker, Ian Swanson and Marissa Tan.



Student Leadership

Jeremy Budd was selected to represent the Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School at the 2009 Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Forum (HOBY). The HOBY seminar will be held at Washington and Jefferson College from in June. This event is for students who demonstrate leadership ability as well as strong communication and problem-solving skills.

Jeremy is also eligible to attend HOBY's 2009 World Leadership Congress which will take place at George Washington University in July. At this event, students will gather from all over the world to further develop their leadership skills. Students will also have the opportunity to listen to distinguished leaders from various areas such as technology, politics, humanitarian aid, and business.

Apples Foreign Language Festival

Students from the Hollidaysburg Area School District traveled to Indiana University of Pennsylvania for the annual APPLES (Appalachian Language Educators Society) Foreign Language Festival in March. Students competed in academic (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) and non-academic (dance, music, art, and drama) categories.

Senior High APPLES Winners

French

Level I – **Sarah Kaneshiki**: Literary Recitation, 2nd; Oral Proficiency, 2nd; Reading, 1st; Composition, 1st. **Nicole Altmanshofer**: Composition, 3rd.

Level II – **Jeremy Budd**: Literary Recitation, 1st; Oral Proficiency, 1st; Composition, 1st. **Michelle Stoltz**: Oral Proficiency, 2nd. **Neil Grimes**: Literary Recitation, 3rd. **Jacob Pramuk**: Listening, 2nd; Reading, 1st. **Sarah Waksmonki**: Composition, 2nd.

Level III – **Brooke Frederick**: Reading, 1st; Composition, 3rd.

Level IV – **Hayley Snyder**: Oral Proficiency, 3rd; Composition, 2nd. **Zach Seymour**: Reading Non-Academic, 2nd. **Sarah Waksmonki**: Construction Model, 3rd. **Steph Miller**: Art Original, 2nd. **Michelle Stoltz**: Music-Instrumental, 2nd. **Erin Vesco**: Music-Instrumental, 3rd.

Spanish

Emily Evey: Music/Vocal, 1st. **Brooke Giblock**: Music/Instrumental, 1st. **Tori Long**: T-shirt design, 1st; Sr. High Dance, 3rd. **Meg Pike**: Art/Reproduction, 3rd. **David Veronesi**: Level 2 Literary Recitation, 3rd; Level 2 Speaking Proficiency, 2nd. **Arianna DeReus**: Level 3 Speaking Proficiency, 1st; Level 3 Reading Comprehension, 1st (tie); Level 3 Listening Comprehension, 2nd (tie). **Ernest Rajakone**: Level 2 Listening Comprehension, 1st. **Zaccheus Mokua**: Level 2 Listening Comprehension, 3rd. **Laurel Petrulionis**: Level 2 Composition, 3rd

German

Level II – **Robby Breckenridge**: Literary Recitation, 1st; Speaking Proficiency, 2nd; Reading Comprehension, 1st; Composition, 1st. **Tim Galbraith**: Speaking Proficiency, 1st; Listening Comprehension, 1st; Composition, 2nd. **David Smilnak**: Listening Comprehension, 2nd; Reading Comprehension, 3rd. Chelsea Coley: Listening Comprehension, 3rd; Reading Comprehension, 2nd.

Level III – **Hannah Bennett**: Literary Recitation, 1st; Speaking Proficiency, 3rd. **Elizabeth Hoerath**: Composition, 3rd.

Level IV – **Nicole Dengler**: Speaking Proficiency, 3rd; Listening Comprehension, 2nd; Reading Comprehension, 3rd.

Level V – **Taylor McConnell**: Literary Recitation, 1st; Speaking Proficiency, 1st; Listening Comprehension, 1st; Reading Comprehension, 1st.

Junior High APPLES Winners

French

Ade Wesley: Art Original, 1st. **Kris Stern** and **Zach Waltz**: Construction Model, 1st.

Spanish

Nathan Scordo and **Jared Wood**: Construction Model, 2nd. **Caroline Pielmeier** and **Maria Bush**: T-shirts, 3rd. **Haadi Ali**: Reading Comprehension, 1st; Listening Comprehension, 3rd.

German

Alexis Preston: Listening Comprehension, 1st; Composition, 1st; Speaking, 2nd. **Morgan Wilder**: Reading, 1st; Listening , 3rd. **Brandon Soellner**: Listening, 2nd. **Ben Heiburg** and **Brandon Soellner**: Webpage Design, 1st. **Taylor Wantz**: Composition, 2nd; Speaking, 3rd; Music Instrumental, 2nd. **Francis Kliesiwicz**: Literary Recitation, 1st.

Anatomy Awards

In April, Linda Bufalini's Honors Biology II students participated in the annual Anatomy Awards. The gala award ceremony was the culmination of the students' intensive study of human anatomy including anatomical landmarks and orientation, medical terminology, abdominal pelvic quadrants and regions, and a plethora of knowledge encompassing directional terms, major planes, cavities, and body systems. The Anatomy Awards unit was designed to showcase the exceptional efforts of the Honors Biology II students. These students are participants in the College-in-High School Anatomy and Physiology course offered at the Hollidaysburg Area Senior High.

Utilizing the language of anatomy and reaching back to the Renaissance to the great artist-anatomists such as Leonardo Da Vinci, students were able to create their own human figures and anatomy models. Metamorphosing from amateur anatomists to refined and competent pre-medical professional candidates, the Honors Biology II students manifested their skills by illustrating the human form and identifying the appropriate anatomical landmarks and regions on their "cadaver" model.

After intensive study and modifications of their "specimen", student projects were evaluated by Mrs. Bufalini and peer review. Project criteria incorporated attention to accuracy, organ placement, realism, and dynamic display quality. This year's first place award winners from each class were Victoria Long, Crystal Holzworth, Matthew Taylor, Tyler Sell, Arina Waehama, and Britney Kugler. Second place awards were captured by Jonathan Cruse, James Dalgarn, Alex Pike, Brandon Heim, Eryka Bondi, Courtney Fowler, and Lori Saylor. Third place honors went to Emily Evey, Livia Vanderheijden, Chris Cortez, Brittany Dwyer, Elizabeth Martinsen, and Aubree Miller.

Scholastic Quiz Team Meets a Pro!

The Scholastic Quiz team took advantage of a photo op with Ken Jennings, highest money winner in Jeopardy history. Pictured with Mr. Jennings are Casey Burns, Michael Appleman, Ernest Rajakone, Dan Henderson, Zach Seymour, Andrew Peterson, Ian Swanson, Jacob Pramuk, Andrew Pramuk, and Michelle Barthlemes.

Exciting Labs

Students who were enrolled in Advanced General Science with Mandy Livai and Andrea Walter went green. Students examined the different forms of alternative fuels in extensive labs. They worked with Penn State student engineers in examining fuel cells and were able to create their own biodiesel using vegetable oil.

Students also expressed their ingenuity by designing and constructing their own windmills. A classroom competition was held to see which blade design would generate the most electricity.

Students utilized technology to share information on energy conservation in the home, via a wikispace – a webpage which is accessible only to students in the class in order to post and share information. Utilizing various technologies effectively is necessary in order for students to be competitive in the job market. Different approaches to facilitate student success through problem solving were implemented. The skills used in these activities will be used throughout the students' lifetime and are skills required on the PSSA.

Co-Teaching

This year at the senior high many students were introduced to co-teaching. The co-teaching model has two teachers. One is the curriculum teacher and the other is a special education teacher, both in the classroom together. The intent of the model is to allow for a 'least restrictive environment' for special needs students.

Lessons, activities and labs can be modified within the classroom environment. The model can take many different forms throughout the course of a year. One teacher may teach a lesson, while the other keeps a log of student behavior. This allows for data-based reflection when assessing a lesson and precise record keeping. Another mode may have teachers splitting into two groups to teach the same lesson or to have teachers teach different lessons at stations. Both teachers may also teach a lesson using a "tag team" style, where each teacher takes a turn. Whatever the form the co-taught class takes, the focus is the students and the best methods to meet and assess their needs.

Andrea Walter (left) and Mandy Livai (right) co-teach at the senior high school.

Scholastic Quiz Team

The Scholastic Quiz Team completed another very successful year finishing second to State College in the WPSU-TV's Scholastic Scrimmage show. The championship match was very exciting to watch with a final score of 290-260. To advance to the championship round, the team beat Jersey Shore 480-120, Bradford 385-160, Westmont Hilltop 345-310, and Greater Johnstown 270-215.

The team once again met the eligibility requirements to compete at the National Academic Quiz Tournament held in Chicago. Zach Seymour, the team's captain, finished 40th out of almost 900 students competing.

Quiz bowl questions range over the entire spectrum of a high school curriculum and also include a certain amount of current events, sports, and popular culture. The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Quiz bowl can reinforce classroom lessons and also encourage players to go beyond their assignments to master other areas as well.

The members of the competing team are: Zach Seymour, captain, Andrew Peterson, Andrew Pramuk, Ian Swanson, Jamie McKibbin, alternate, and Dan Henderson, alternate.

Other members of the team include: Michelle Barthlemes, Casey Burns, Ernest Rajakone, Michael Appleman, Jacob Pramuk, Richard Klingbeil, Jeremy Conrad, Erica Schmidt, Milan Patel, Sarah Kaneshiki, Haley Barbarini, and Laurel Petrolionis.

Scholastic Quiz Team advisors and members are (front row) Elaine Adams, team advisor, Andrew Peterson, Ian Swanson, Dan Henderson, Andrew Pramuk, Zach Seymour, and Sue Cyran, team advisor.

National Latin Exam

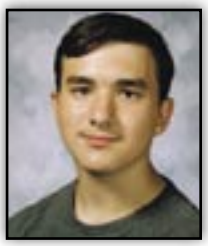
Each year in March several Latin students elect to compete in the National Latin Exam. This exam is comprehensive and includes not only Latin vocabulary and grammar, but also civilization, English derivatives and Roman mythology. This year several students achieved excellent scores and received awards.

Level 1 award winners were Dan Henderson, Emily Duman and Christopher Feathers. Level 2 award winners were Michael Brown, Mark Brown and Will Peterman. Level 3 award winners were Matthew Mielnik and Colin Heininger.

National Latin Exam award winners are Emily Duman, Dan Henderson, Michael Brown, Mark Brown, and Will Peterman. Absent from photo: Colin Heininger, Chris Feathers and Matt Mielnik.

Senior High Scholar

Junior Jacob Clouse won second place in the Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award sponsored by The Pennsylvania Society in honor of Franklin's Tercentenary and his contributions to his country. His essay entitled "Never Give an Inch" earned him $2000.



Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is a growing scientific field that studies the properties and potential uses of matter with structural size less than 100 nanometers. The field is not new; it was mentioned in theory about 50 years ago. However, the demand for people trained for work in the "nano-world" has exploded in recent years.

To give the Honors Scientific Research students an introduction to nanotechnology, they synthesized nano-silver to study its antibacterial properties. Because the particles created can be as small as 1/80,000 the width of a human hair, special equipment is needed to characterize and analyze the products made by the students. One set of this advanced instrumentation can be found at the Penn State Nanofabrication Facility.

Samples of Ian Swanson and Matt Begley's colloidal silver were sent to Penn State's Center for Nanotechnology Education and Utilization (CNEU). We then set-up a remote access of the atomic force microscope inside the educational clean room to determine if the samples contained nanoparticles of silver. The students were able to use an LCD projector, laptop computer, and a website designed by Penn State to set parameters, manipulate the instrument, and gather data about particle size. They could watch the instrument move through a webcam and talk with Amy Brunner, an employee of the CNEU with extensive background in nanotechnology, live through Skype. The students were able to save the data collected and receive the information via email for future reference.

Students involved in this process found it to be helpful in their research and also exciting, as they were able to work with equipment that few high school students have access to at their home schools!

"Nanotechs" Ian Swanson (left) and Matt Begley

Students Excel in Math Competitions

Senior high students enjoyed numerous opportunities to compete in different math contests.

Forty-one students competed in the high school level Pennsylvania Math League series of six quizzes. The top scores from all of the school participants were submitted as the school's score. Students whose scores were sent on as part of the school's scores were: third year contributors Adam Bettwy, Richard Klingbeil, and Milan Patel; second year contributors Jared Heslop, Andrew Peterson, and Taylor McConnell; and first year contributors Ryan Mextorf, Jeremy Conrad, Zach Seymour, Katie Hite, Lily Gharib, Erica Schmidt, Jamie McKibbin, Matthew Recker, Luke Ottaway, Taylor Smith, Rob Breckenridge, Jacob Clouse, Michael Figart, Dan Henderson, Ethan Eldred and Casey Burns. Richard Klingbeil and Zachary Seymour both scored a perfect 6 of 6 on the third Pennsylvania Math League Test.

The top twenty Pennsylvania Math League scorers were given the opportunity to take the American Math Exam (AME). This non-calculator competition involves more difficult math puzzlers with integer answers. Milan Patel received the highest score on the American Math Exam this year at the senior high School. His name will appear on the AME Plaque displayed at the high school.

Students also attended several out-of-town math adventures in Washington, D.C., Shippensburg, Indiana, and Altoona. Drexel Rothrauff, Ashleigh Craig, Taylor McConnell, Somrit Basak and Elizabeth Martinsen attended the debut of the Colonial Mathematics Competition at George Washington University in early November. Talented mathematics students from the entire Eastern Seaboard competed in the first year of this event.
In March, Jared Heslop, Ashleigh Craig and Jacob Clouse completed mathematics sections, while Robby Cordero, Greg Walters, and Justin Hetrick participated in the computer science section of the Shippensburg University Math/Computer Science competition for students in their junior year of high school.

Milan Patel placed second among all of the seniors and Erin Conrad placed fourth among all sophomore participants at the 2009 Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Math Competition. The team comprised of Milan Patel, Jacob Clouse and Erin Conrad placed second among all of the high schools in IUP's Division I (high schools with over 1000 students in grades 9 through 12).

The year's math competitions came to a close at the Annual Penn State Altoona Math Competition. Four difficult practice exams were given throughout the year to determine which Hollidaysburg Area students would be given the opportunity to attend the PSU Altoona meet. Sarah Kaneshiki placed fourth among the sophomores at this rigorous math event. These friendly but competitive venues provide scholastic opportunities for our students. Participating students are commended for their efforts and achievements during the 2008-09 school year.

Honors Research

The senior high Honors Scientific Research Class has been working on several multi-year projects such as the isolation of Mycobacteriophage (bacterial viruses) from the environment and subsequent analysis of their genome. This work was done in conjunction with the Bacteriophage Institute of the University of Pittsburgh. The students have also been using zebra fish as a model to study vertebrate development. The course of the fish development was recorded using digital microscopy. Next year's research students will be integrating the zebra fish development project into the Advanced Placement Biology curriculum.

Additional student projects have included development of Lab on a Chip protocols for use by senior high school chemistry classes. This work was supported by Penn State University and included a video conference in which students were able to manipulate an atomic force microscope located at University Park to view their samples by remote access from Hollidaysburg.

Another project made use of bioinformatics to annotate viral gene sequences. The students used the programs GLIMMER, GeneMark, and BLAST to analyze the viral genomes. These projects will also be continued next year with a goal of integration into high school science classes.

Students from the Honors Scientific Research Class pose with their teachers Rick Imler and Lynette Luke.

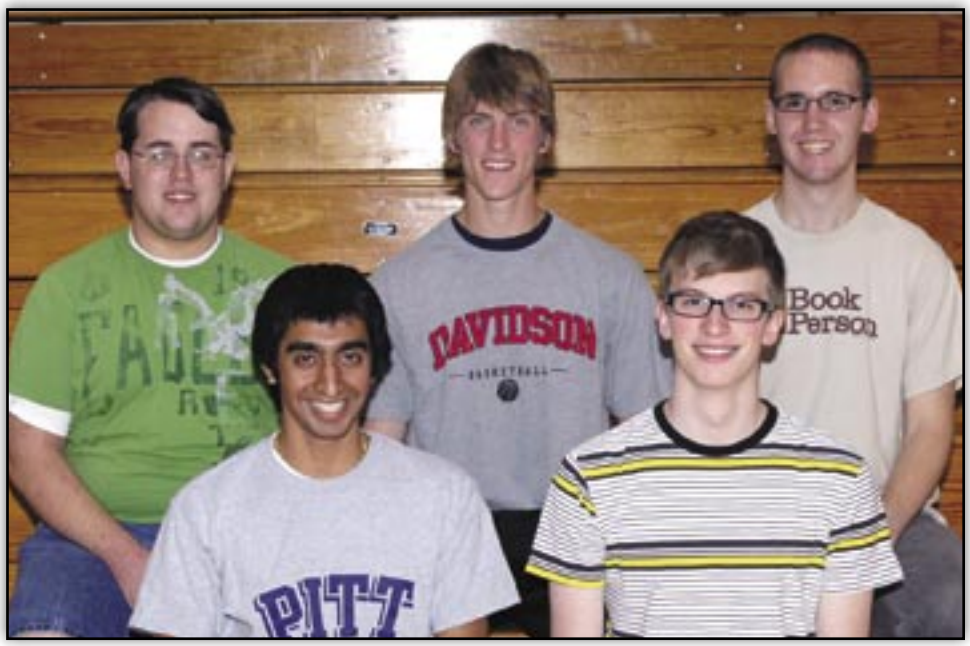
With the support of the Hollidaysburg Area School District Foundation, Juniata College Science in Motion program, Penn State Altoona, and Saint Francis University, the students also participated in the Science Olympiad and the Foot of Ten Math and Science Saturday event.

Five Take Top Honors in National Merit Scholarship Program

More than 1.5 million juniors in over 21,000 high schools entered the 2009 National Merit Program by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

Seniors Milan Patel and Zachary Seymour were named Finalists in the program. The nationwide pool of Finalists, which represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state.

Richard Klingbeil, Luke Ottaway, and Andrew Pramuk were recognized as National Merit Scholarship Commended students. Commended students placed among the top 5% of more than one million students who entered the competition.



National Merit Scholarship Finalists and Commended students (front row) Milan Patel and Andrew Pramuk; (back row) Richard Klingbeil, Luke Ottaway, and Zachary Seymour

Key Club Gives Back to Community

This year, the high school Key Club gave back to the community in many ways. The club started the year by trick-or-treating for UNICEF. Throughout the month of November, Key Club collected supplies and monetary donations from students and community members for Operation SOS. The club has also worked to collect donations for the March of Dimes with Kathryn Haberle's child development classes. The March of Dimes fundraising activities included bake sales, change collection and the annual Students vs. Teachers Basketball Game. Many club members also volunteered their time for the Miracle League, The Breast Cancer Walk, the Humane Society and the Adopt a Vet program through the Hollidaysburg Veteran's Home.

The Key Club collected supplies and monetary donations for Operation SOS.

Busy Year for Student Council

Student Council began this year's activities by organizing events for Homecoming. The annual skit show was a huge success with each member of the homecoming court performing a skit or dance to a song of her choice. The parade preceding the football game featured the homecoming court and their escorts. After the football game, students enjoyed the homecoming dance which culminated our week of activities.

Student Council worked with Key Club to support Operation SOS by collecting money and goods for troops serving in Iraq. The group also supported Meals for Millions, a Rotary International project, with a $500 donation.

In December, Student Council joined with the Hollidaysburg Area Women's Club to provide gifts for Hollidaysburg Area students for the holidays. Student Council wrapped the gifts and the Women's Club delivered them.

The Semi-Formal Dance is a popular event that Student Council co-sponsors with the German Club. The cafeteria was turned into a "winter wonderland" for an evening that was enjoyed by all.

The last big project for the year was saying good-bye to the senior class with a map in the cafeteria showing where each senior is headed next year: to work, to the Armed Forces or to college.

Students enjoy the semi-formal dance sponsored by Student Council and the German Club.

Because of the construction in our school this year we were unable to sponsor the annual Senior Citizen Night or the annual Softball for Charity Game. We look forward to continuing these traditions next year.

English Academy

English Academy is a big hit at the junior high. In order to increase student interest in "reading for fun," Marion Borr, seventh-grade English teacher, and Joy Peterman, librarian and media specialist, began the English Academy. Mrs. Peterman purchased a large number of new non-fiction books for the library with timely and interesting titles like *U.S. Air Marshals*, *The Loch Ness Monster*, *Reducing Your Carbon Footprint*, *Changing China*, and *The History of the Pittsburgh Steelers*. Every three to four weeks, Mrs. Borr's English classes were asked to choose and read non-fiction books and submit a small number of facts from the book; this number was based on their English class level.

The students enjoyed the project for many reasons: some topics were about current events, some were subjects they had never considered reading about before, the books weren't too long, and they had many lively and colorful pictures. From January 2009 to May 2009, the students read approximately 500 books.

Anne Mielnik with Kyler Madara and his latest English Academy selection.

Students Celebrate Diversity

Team two students participated in the region-wide Celebrate Diversity Program, sponsored by Penn State Altoona and the Jewish Federation of Blair County. Teachers from the junior high have been involved with this program since it began 15 years ago.

HASD Students Rank among Top on National Math Exam

Eighth grader Roman Drake scored in the top one percent and Emmett Eldred scored in the top five percent of the nation's participants in the American Mathematics Competition 8 (AMC 8).

The AMC 8 is a 40-question test given to students across the country and in several foreign nations. The purpose of the competition is to increase interest in mathematics and to develop problem-solving ability through friendly competition. The questions range in difficulty from easy to very difficult in order to appeal to a broad range of students.

Roman Drake

Emmett Eldred

Scholastic Quiz Team Takes Second

by Shannyn Shultz, ninth grade

In February, nine junior high Scholastic Quiz Team members competed at the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 in Altoona, taking second place. They only lost one match to the first place team, Bellwood-Antis. This year is the first for the Scholastic Quiz Team at junior high. The members of this group of students have been practicing long and hard.

Scholastic Quiz Team members were (front row) Jared Wood, Joana Li, Katherine Horne, and Colin Heininger; (second row) Erik Stern, Roman Drake, Andrew Hess, Matt Meilnik, and Nur Cardakli. Sam Hess and Natalie Smith are missing from photo.

Ides of March

by Adrienne Walters, ninth grade

Did you ever hear of the Ides of March? The Ides of March has been celebrated for centuries, dating back to March 15th, 44 B.C. The Ides of March is known as a day of infamy. It all started when a group of men, led by Marcus Junius Brutus, Gaius Cassius Longinus, Decimus Brutus Albinus, and Gaius Trebonius, came to a meeting with Julius Caesar with daggers concealed in their togas, and stabbed him 23 times as he stood at the base of Pompey's statue. Legend has it that Caesar said in Latin to Brutus, "Et tu, Bruté" (You, too, my child?)

In March, Angela Letizia's Latin classes dressed up in togas and flip flops and wore laurel leaves around their heads. Senior high Latin students participated in the event as well. At the end of the day, there was a pizza party for the students and their friends who wore their togas. Students from the senior high joined the pizza party.

Junior Theatre Float

by Steven Dodson and
Keith McFarland, ninth grade

The Junior Theatre won first place for the best float in the Hollidaysburg Winterfest Parade! The Junior Theater's *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* float took home the gold with participants throwing candy and cards to represent and advertise for the play in March. Sarah Piper, the Main Street Manager for the Hollidaysburg Community Partnership, presented a check for $150 to play director Leslie Rupp, Principal Edward Barton and the cast of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Junior High Reading Competition

Two teams from the junior high competed in the Interscholastic Reading Competition held in December at Richland High School. Participants were (front row) Brittney Lowey, Cheyenne Lee, Maggie Hoyne, Taylor Wantz, and Natalie Smith; (middle row) Deanna Smith, Makayla Williams, Divya Gupta, Natalie Myers, and Katherine Horne; and (back row) Amanda Conrad, Howie Keenan, Maggie Franco, Anna Springer, Ellen Wertz, Benjamin Black, and Joey Carper. Team advisors (not pictured) were Melanie Nedrich and Joy Peterman. Debbie Martin and Mandi Yeager volunteered as a moderator and scorekeeper for the event.

Mock Election

As the nation turned out to vote on November 4, so did students at the junior high school. In fact, ninth graders turned out to vote twice!

During lunch periods, all students had the opportunity to participate in a mock election that reflected the real Presidential race. The results, however, did not align with the national election, as John McCain won with 200 votes. Barack Obama placed second with 151 votes, while Ralph Nader had a strong showing with 103. Bob Barr garnered fewer than ten votes on his way to a fourth-place finish. Students were required to register in their history/civics classes in order to be eligible to vote on Election Day.

Meanwhile, all ninth-grade college bound and honors classes competed in a mock election of a different kind. Each class formed a political party of its own, complete with candidates, platforms, ads, websites, and slogans. During first through fifth periods, the "parties" put their campaigns on display and "candidates" delivered their stump speeches. In a closely contested election, Joel Schocker of the Schock Party was elected by popular vote.

Matt Barton casts his vote.

National History Day

Sophomore Anthony Pinter and eighth grader Emmet Eldred participated in the district competition of National History Day, held at Juniata College in April. National History Day is part of a program that offers an exciting way to study history. Students choose a subject to research that relates to an annual theme; this year's was "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies." Then they decide whether to write a research paper, create an individual exhibit, develop a group exhibit, do an individual or group performance, create an individual or group documentary, or develop a website.

Anthony Pinter took first place in the individual exhibit category (senior division) for his display, "Benjamin Franklin: Scientist and Diplomat," and Emmett Eldred took second place in the website category (junior division) for his site, also on Benjamin Franklin.

National History Day is sponsored by junior high teachers Amy Dobbins and Wendy Campbell.

Storytelling 101

"Once upon a time…" That's how most stories begin, right? The students in Terri Lingenfelter's fifth-period English class learned that is not always true. These students participated in storytelling both familiar and not-so-familiar stories at Charles W. Longer Elementary School. Students in grades one through three enjoyed eight different American folk tales including *Joe Magarac*, *Johnny Appleseed*, and Native American tale *Rainbow Crow*. The eighth graders learned valuable lessons in oral communication, speaking to a specific audience, and vocal qualities in this culminating activity of American Folk Tales and the Oral Tradition. Both the elementary and junior high students enjoyed the experience.

Voice of Democracy

By Cheyenne Lee, ninth grade

What exactly is Voice of Democracy? It is an essay contest sponsored by the Veteran's of Foreign War (VFW) that each year more than 100,000 students compete for over 2.5 million dollars in scholarships. Prizes and scholarships are awarded at the local, district, state and national level. This year's theme was "Service and Sacrifice" by America's Veterans Benefit Today's Youth.

To enter you have to be in grades ninth through twelfth and be enrolled in public or home school. You may not be a foreign exchange student, age 20 and over, or a previous first place state winner. You must enter a two to five minute essay on a CD or cassette tape, label it and include a neatly typed essay with your name and attached entry form.

Junior high VFW Voice of Democracy winners were (front row) Lauren Craig, Nathan Scordo, and Janelle Cobler; (second row) teacher Jean Sinal, Zach Wilkes, Victoria McIntyre, Todd Surkovich, and Principal Edward Barton. Missing from photo: Matthew Weirich, Amanda Conrad, and Rachel Nelson.

MATHCOUNTS Competition

A team of junior high school students including Roman Drake, Joana Li, Nur Cardakli, and Emmet Eldred received first place honors at the regional MATHCOUNTS Competition that was held at Penn State – Altoona Campus in February earning them an opportunity to compete at the state competition in March.

These students, along with classmates Alec Heininger, Juliana Piacentini, David Hess, and Jenna Delozier, also competed in individual MATHCOUNTS competitions. Overall, the group took five of the top 10 individual places in the region with Roman Drake taking first place; Nur Cardakli, second; Alec Heininger, third; Joana Li, fifth; and Emmett Eldred, sixth.

At the state competition, the team placed 11th out of 27 teams. The students also competed individually against the top 170 students in the state. Three students including Roman Drake, Joana Li, and Nur Cardakli, placed in the top fifty percent.

Eight students from the junior high school, including (front row) Jenna Delozier, Joana Li, David Hess, and Juliana Piacentini; (second row) Alec Heininger, Nur Cardakli, Emmett Eldred, and Roman Drake participated in the MATHCOUNTS Competition.

MATHCOUNTS promotes student interest in mathematics by making math achievement as challenging, exciting, and prestigious as a school sport. Students are chosen to represent their school in the event through two testing sessions given in December.

Veteran's Day Essay Winners

by Zach Waltz

This year, junior high school students were given the following topics to write about for the annual Veteran's Day essay contest: Why America's veterans should be honored or write about a specific veteran who you think should be honored.

The seventh grade winners were Sidney Long, first place; Kyler Madara, second place; and Anne Mielnik, third place. The eighth grade winners were Jess Schraff, first place; Tyler Beaudoun, second place; and Matt Stoltz, third place.

The ninth grade winners (none of them are pictured) were Nathan Scord, first place; Ryan Creuzberger, second place; and Ron Baum, third place.

The National Junior Honor Society

by Steven Dodson, ninth grade

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is one of the school's most prestigious groups, directed by teacher Linda Lang. The NJHS is constantly participating in school and other community service projects every month to achieve their semester goals of 10 service hours.

In order to join the Honor Society, eighth-grade students must have an overall 94% average and have no grade lower than an 84%. They submit forms showing their service to the community and the school, and then a committee decides who would best represent the Honor Society by narrowing it down to a couple students and then inducting them with an honorable ceremony.

This year, the NJHS elected ninth-grade student Joel Schocker as the Honor Society's president and Jared Wood vice president. Other jobs on the NJHS "staff" include Kristina Daus as webmaster, Taylor Wantz as secretary, and Matt Mielnik as treasurer. All these roles are equally important, with each doing another job to make the NJHS more organized and efficient.

Each NJHS member must complete a total of 10 service hours to keep their membership valid. But how do they get their hours, do you think? Ms. Lang solves this common problem by setting up dates to do community service projects. Some include "Light Up Hollidaysburg", where students decorate downtown for the holiday season, and the recent Gateway Gardens Project, where students take a valuable Saturday of their time to plant flowers and pull weeds.

Many of these projects made profit for charitable causes, too, such as Operation SOS. Students and staff at the junior high donated record amounts of supplies to send to the local military serving overseas.

Patriot's Pen

by Kyla Nidtech, ninth grade

Thirteen junior high students won the local VFW Patriot's Pen essay contest. This year's theme was "Why American Veterans Should be Honored." The winners were Ginger Glass, Rachel Stoltz, Oliva Coho, Caitlyn Batisle, Urwa Siddigui, Jessica Schraff, Nicolette Haley, Amanada Fagan, Kristen Murgo, Natallie Myers, Braden Lishinsky, Kennedie Connor, and Ben Riggen.

Hollidaysburg Area seventh and eighth graders winners of the Patriot's Pen essay contest are (front row) Urwa Siddigui, Jessica Schraff, Nicolette Haley, Amanada Fagan, and Kristen Murgo; (second row) teacher Jean Sinal, Ginger Glass, Rachel Stoltz, Oliva Coho, Caitlyn Batisle, and Principal Edward Barton. Absent from photo: Natallie Myers, Braden Lishinsky, Kennedie Connor, and Ben Riggen.

Nathan DeProspo, President Lincoln (James Hayney), David Logue, Tessa Clouse, Meghan Grassadonia, and teacher Jean Sinal.

Junior High Welcomes President Lincoln

To commemorate the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth, the junior high Social Studies Department hosted a school-wide assembly. Planned and implemented by teacher Jean Sinal, the assembly featured a talented Lincoln re-enactor, James Hayney, who shared his presentation of "Lincoln's Life Lessons." Members of the 110th PVI Keystone Regiment served as the honor guards for the event. In addition, Tom and Joann Kennedy contributed to the program by role-playing newspaper reporters from the Altoona Tribune. The assembly was closed with an outstanding original musical piece, "Abe's Life," which was composed by ninth grade student David Logue and directed by Kris Laird.

In conjunction with the festivities, the Social Studies Department sponsored an essay contest, in which students reflected on how President Lincoln's call for a "new birth of freedom" continues to inspire Americans of this generation. Winners of the essay contest were Nathan De Prospo, ninth grade; Meghan Grassadonia, eighth grade; and Tessa Clouse, seventh grade.

Pen Pals for the 21st Century

Students in Marion Borr's English classes have "electronic" pen pals! Mrs. Borr chose ePals™ for its safety controls, standards-based projects, and association and collaboration with National Geographic. As part of the ePals™ learning community and global network, her classes exchanged e-mails, cultural packages (food, school items, stamps, books, cards, etc.), PowerPoint presentations, scrapbooks, and reports on subjects like holidays, climate, and geography of their hometowns.

In September, the pre-honors English students began communicating with individual students at the Ruei Fang Junior High School in Taipei County, Taiwan. The college-bound English students had a scrapbook and PowerPoint exchange with three classes of the Pound Hill Junior School, Crawley, West Essex, England.

Ruei Fang students sent food and other cultural items to Hollidaysburg: mooncakes (a traditional delicacy made especially for the Lunar Festival), exquisitely designed Chinese New Year's cards, candy, stamps, books, Dragon Boat Festival items, and handmade gifts.

Hollidaysburg students sent Hollidaysburg Tiger picture frames with their pictures inside, books, pencils, valentines, Easter eggs, Christmas cards, jelly beans, Halloween candy, postcards, stamps, and boxes of Mallo Cups, made in Altoona!

All the 21st century pen pals learned how to find similarities between two cultures; how culture and experience influence people's perceptions of countries; how to communicate effectively by practicing grammar, spelling, critical thinking, cooperative learning, and letter-writing skills; and the importance of social awareness and other cross-cultural abilities.

This project was selected for the "Student Showcase" in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's "Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference" held in February in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Song Fest

Approximately 120 fifth graders from Bedford, Blair, Cambria and Somerset Counties were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) elementary chorus festival, Song Fest.

Participants from Hollidaysburg included Cierra Redinger, Kurtis Schobel, Maaz Siddiqui and Sara Stoltz from Allegheny One; Madelyn Betar, Jorden Black, Samuel Black and Seth Partner from Charles W. Longer; Rachael Angermeier, Olivia Bowmaster, Maddison Fitch, Audbrey Forlina, Isabella Frucella, Jaden Heverly, Lindsey Huether and Haley Kenyon from Foot of Ten; Charles Antonowicz, Victor Dimitroff, Max Gehringer, Haylee Heaton, Caleb Liebal, Paige Matteson, Samantha Parnell, Lauren Singer, Carissa Trexler and Makenzie Wilkinson from Frankstown.

The students were accompanied by their directors, Martha Miller, Debbie Smith and Mary Villani.

Congratulations All-State Music Participants

Holly Mercer, All-State Chorus, Megan Maggiore, All-State Concert Band, Jared Heslop, All-State Wind Ensemble; (second row) Jeremy Budd, All-State Concert Band, John Mountain, All-State Orchestra, and Andrew Pramuk All-State Chorus. (absent from photo: Kyle Bunnell, All-State Orchestra)

District 6 Bandfest

Twenty-five students participated in the District 6 band festival in January at Berlin-Brothers Valley High School. Qualifying students participated in the PMEA Region III Band Festival held in March at Tyrone High School.

Pramuk Performs with Eastern Honors Chorus

Senior Andrew Pramuk took first chair in the Bass I section at the District, Regional, and All State Choruses this year, and qualified to sing in the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) Eastern Division Honors Chorus, held in Providence, Rhode Island, in March. Andrew was among 650 of the most musically talented high school students in the Eastern region of the United States selected to perform.

With assistance from his music teacher, Wendy Jo Nagy, Andrew prepared remarkably challenging music that he performed under the leadership of prominent conductors. The students spent three days rehearsing with one of four conductors for the event.

The MENC All-Eastern Honors Ensembles, consisting of a concert band, symphony orchestra, mixed chorus, and jazz ensemble, are organized by members of MENC.

Andrew will be attending Eastman School of Music for music education in the fall.

Cellofourte visits Hollidaysburg

Pittsburgh-based cello quartet, Cellofourte, visited the junior and senior high school music students for a day of performing and workshops. Cellofourte is comprised of professional cellists with a repertoire as varied as classical, jazz, rock, and heavy metal. The group performed for fifth- and sixth- grade orchestra students, junior and senior high music students, and guests from the Altoona Area Senior High orchestra. In addition, they led a cello workshop after school for a select group of cellists.

The Hollidaysburg Area Music Parents Association funded the workshop.

Elementary Bandfest

Several elementary students spent a day with teacher Melissa Ott at Chestnut Ridge Middle School preparing for an evening concert. Outstanding music students from Blair, Bedford, Cambria, and Somerset counties participate in this annual event.

Representing Hollidaysburg from Frankstown Elementary School was Elyse Smilnak (flute), Alyssa Pheasant (clarinet), Matthew Viego (tenor saxophone), and Andrew Vonada (percussion); from Charles W. Longer Ali Treglia (clarinet), Kayla Irvin (alto saxophone), and Colter Long (trumpet); and from Foot of Ten Briana Rajakone (flute), Kendra Rajakone (flute) and Cody Farabaugh (trombone).

In addition, this year marked the first ever District 6 percussion ensemble. Dominic Carson from Charles W. Longer Elementary and Zachary Stitt from Frankstown Elementary participated in the percussion ensemble. Congratulations to these students for their hard work and dedication.

KANIT – A New Musical Experience at HAJHS

KANIT is the newly formed percussion ensemble at the Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School. It was started by and is directed by Dan H. Harber a student teacher at the junior high who is studying mathematics at Penn State Altoona. All the music is written by Mr. Harber and is performed on two sets of metal trash cans and two types of plastic bass cans.

The members of the group are: Metals A: Brandon Harris, Taylor Smilnak, Dante Delerme, and Alec Heininger; Metals B: Willy Moyer, David Logue, and Nathan Scordo; Basses: Dan Harshberger, Aaron Logue, Grant Prosser, and Matt Gibson. Music selections consist of "Jammin On The Cans", "Paradise ala Cans", and "Leave Me Alone." KANIT performed a concert in May. Visit the junior high band website for more information.

County Band

by Shannyn Shultz, ninth grade

County band is an honor band that is held every year. The purpose of the band is to feature some of the best junior high band students from the eight schools that participate in Blair County. The festival is held at a different school in Blair County each year.

There are about 140 student members from junior high schools in Blair County including Altoona, Bellwood-Antis, Claysburg Kimmel, Hollidaysburg, Northern Bedford, Spring Cove, Tyrone and Williamsburg. All the student members participating are in seventh, eighth, or ninth grade and were selected by their school band director to attend the honor band festival.

For this year, the music selections include a march titled "Bravura," a ballad that was written for James Dean titled "As Summer Was Just Beginning," "Latin Gold" - a fun rock song, and another few titled "Portrait of a Clown," "Blue Ridge Saga," "Peregrine," and "The Last to Defend."

Successful Year for Senior High Jazz Band

This year was an exciting one for the Mainstream Jazz Band. In April, the band attended three Jazz Adjudication Festivals at Penn State University, Mansfield University, and State College Area High School. The pieces performed at the festivals included "In a Mellow Tone" as performed by the Buddy Rich Big Band, "Lonely Street" as performed by the Count Basie Orchestra (featuring Braun Brennecke on the alto saxophone,) and "Sing, Sang, Sung" as performed by the Gordon Goodwin Big Phat Band (featuring Jared Heslop on the drums).

The band received a Superior Rating, which is the highest rating possible, and the Best Rhythm Section Award at the Penn State University Jazz Festival. Jared Heslop received a Citation for Musical Excellence. At the Mansfield University Festival the band received great accolades by the adjudicators following their performance and Braun Brennecke was one of only four soloists recognized for outstanding musicianship. At State College, the band received a Superior Rating and both Braun Brennecke and Jared Heslop were acknowledged for their outstanding solos. Jared also received a $1,000 scholarship to the Berklee School of Music Summer Program.

Following the festival season, the Mainstream Jazz Band presented their annual Spring Concert in a new venue. "Jazz in the Café" was premiered at the U.S. Hotel's Liberty Hall and featured all of the jazz bands from both the junior high school and senior high school. During the concert the band played many classic and contemporary jazz tunes and also featured senior Zach Weirich singing the Bobby Darin hit "Beyond the Sea", and fellow senior Andrew Pramuk singing the Frank Sinatra standard "Fly Me to the Moon." The Jazz Band wrapped up their successful year by visiting Data Music Services in Altoona to record a CD of several pieces they performed throughout the spring.

Congratulations to PMEA Choral Festival Participants

PMEA District 6 Chorus participants were (front row) Elizabeth Howley, Deanna Delozier, Martha Klingbeil, Megan Bettwy, and Zach Seymour; (back row) Andrew Pramuk, Jacob Pramuk, Ryan Mextorf, and Zachary Weirich.

PMEA Region III Chorus participants were (front row) Martha Klingbeil, Elizabeth Howley, Zachary Seymour, Megan Bettwy, Holly Mercer, accompanied by Wendy Jo Nagy, music teacher; (back row) Zachary Weirich, Ryan Mextorf, Conductor, Andrew Pramuk, and Jacob Pramuk

New Curriculum Enhances Music Program

This year, a music classroom at the junior high was outfitted with new Yamaha MIE keyboards and operating system. MIE stands for Music in Education and is a comprehensive music curriculum designed to incorporate the latest in technology with a content-driven music reading, writing, and performing assessments.

The program has made a great impact on the delivery of the curriculum as well as how the students are enjoying what they are learning.

Richland Band Fest 2008

by Eric Cruse, 9th grade

The Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School (HAJHS) participated, along with nine other area bands, in this year's Richland Band Fest 2008 on October 11. The HAJHS was the only junior high school to participate in the event; all the other bands were senior high bands. It was held at the Herlinger Field at the Richland High School. The festival was a great opportunity to view the other bands' half-time shows and learn more about them.

The junior high's band was the seventh band to perform. They played their "Super Video" half-time show like they did for the school's ninth-grade football home games. Songs included: "Super Mario Bros," "Halo Theme," "Mortal Combat," and "Enter Sandman."

The senior high's band performed eighth. They did their "Sweet Jazz in the Night" half-time show like they do for the senior high school games. Their songs were "The Jazz Police," "Blues in the Night," and "Sweet Georgia Brown."

The festival ended with every band doing a lap around the field and playing "God Bless America." Plaques were awarded to every band.

Senior High Mandolin Ensemble

The newly created senior high mandolin ensemble had a great year of performances. The group, led by senior high orchestra director, Stephanie Everett, met regularly after school on "Mando-Mondays." The ensemble is made up of two mandolins, two mandolas, a mandocello, and mandobass. The group performed at both the winter and spring concerts and toured with the symphonic wind ensemble for their "holiday tour."

ASO Choir

Twenty-one students from Charles W. Longer were invited to sing with the Altoona Symphony Orchestra for their holiday concert at the Mishler Theatre. The students were directed by their music teacher, Mary Villani, who also plays in the orchestra.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students who participated were (front row) Sierra Paul, Rachael Roberts, Jaden Parker, Alyssa Rosamilia, Anne Diminick, Adam Baughman, Joshua Lee; (second row) Madelyn Betar, Sophia Lemtouni, Alyssa Baum, Nicole Castellucci, Jorden Black, Annie Ruggles, and Dominic Carson, (back row) Sandra Johnson, Carl Klingbeil, Cassie Holiday, Seth Partner, Peter Gildea, Sam Black, and Elisabeth Seely.

Much Ado About Nothing

The Hollidaysburg Area Repertory Players (HARP) presented William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* in March. The play was performed with "Godfather" flair!

Don John (Andy McCleary) had become too greedy and Don Pedro (CJ Buskey) comes to "fix" the problem. Claudio (Ethan Eldred) and Benedict (Zach Weirich) are 'muscle' for Don Pedro. Beatrice (Taylor Maloney) and Hero (Laurel Petrulionis) are waitresses at Leonato's Italian Ristorante. When they all get together, each goes about falling in love in their own way. Claudio falls instantly and madly for Hero, while Beatrice and Benedict show their affection through a constant barrage of insults. As this mafia family alternately hatches and foils the other's plans, the comic action never slows down.

A cast and crew of over 50 very talented senior high drama students brought the production to the stage, including student directors Liz Capotosti, Michelle Barthelmes, Michelle Stoltz, and Whitney Rahoi, and student producers Lizzie Rae, Emily Duman, and Alexis Croft.

Russell Stiles, Fine Arts Chairperson directed the show and Lisa Surkovich, assisted by Melody DeLozier, and Tim Surkovich, were the producers.

Junior Theatre Production

Disney's musical, *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* was brought to the stage by the members of the Hollidaysburg Area Junior Theatre in March.

The story, based on Disney's movie, *Alice in Wonderland*, is a delightful journey abounding with mythical creatures, bizarre circumstances and witty satire. Alice (Allyce Fogle, Vanessa Connor, and Abby Ansley) against the advice of her sister Mathilda (Caitlyn Edgell) falls down a dark tunnel and meets a cast of zany characters: the Cheshire Cat (Kyle Surkovich, Steven Dodson, and Zach Waltz), the White Rabbit (Jared Kimble), the Mad Hatter (Caleb Gildea) , the Dodo Bird (Josh Bondi), the Caterpillar (Howie Keenan), the DoorKnob (Emmett Eldred), the Door Mouse (Makayla Williams), the March Hare (Eli Wood), Tweedle Dum (Brittney Lowey) and Tweedle Dee (Emily Sensebaugh), Queen of Hearts (Maggie Hoyne), and the King of Hearts (Dale Shoemaker). Energetic music added to the enchantment of the show.

Leslie Rupp was the director, Lisa Surkovich was the assistant director, and Rebecca Zeek was the producer.

Adam Foor, Holly Walker and Daniel Shaffer-Hall show their Tiger Pride as they perform in Alice in Wonderland, Jr.

Students Act it Out

In April, the Hollidaysburg Area Children's Theatre (H-act), presented Music Theatre International's *Suessical, Jr.*

The show, which follows the antics of memorable characters Horton the Elephant (Blake Walter), Gertrude McFuzz (Courtney Noal), Mayzie LaBird (McKennah Rabel), The Sour Kangaroo (Austin Lowey), Yertle the Turtle (Kyle Gornick), JoJo the Who (Malino DeFay) and of course, The Cat in the Hat (Molly Garrity), is based on the magical works of children's author Dr. Seuss.

Second-grade teacher Lisa Surkovich is the director, assisted by stage manager/ assistant director, Brittany Thayler, and choreographer Tina Raichle.

With a cast and crew of over 60 fourth, fifth and sixth graders representing all four Hollidaysburg Area elementary schools, this exuberant musical was enjoyable for children and grown-ups of all ages!

The Whos of Whoville take a photo break during rehearsal of Seussical, Jr.

Many of the actors from Suessical, Jr. participated in the Multiple Schlerosis (MS) Walk in April as the "Seussical Striders." H-act collected over $650 for the National MS Society.

AIDA

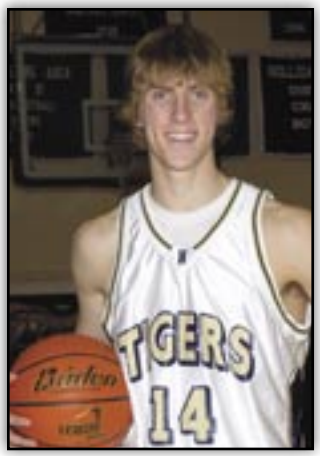
A cast and crew of over 70 talented senior high drama students performed Elton John and Tim Rice's Tony and Grammy Award winning *AIDA* to a full-house in November.

AIDA chronicles the love triangle between Aida (Holly Mercer), a Nubian princess stolen from her country, Amneris (Deanna DeLozier), an Egyptian princess, and Radames (Andrew Pramuk), the soldier they both love.

Russell Stiles, Fine Arts Chairperson, directed the production, and Mary Villani, elementary music teacher, was the music director. Scott Sheehan, band teacher conducted the score with a pit orchestra. The very talented Leanne Steiner was the choreographer. Melody DeLozier and Lisa Surkovich were the show's producers.

Student directors were Courtney Fowler, Liz Capotosti, Michelle Barthelmes, and student producers were Lizzie Rae, Emily Duman and Alexis Croft.

Senior high school students from Russell Stiles' Drama 3 class pose in the costume shop at Altoona Community Theatre during the school's 2009 Community Service Days. Stiles and 30 students spent three days cleaning and organizing the set, costumes, and props. Students also painted and repaired hallways.



Luke Ottaway

Awards

Jamie Griffith and Luke Ottaway, basketball teammates, were co-winners of the 2009 Bill Pequignot Memorial Award. The award was established for players who exemplify the phrase: The Spirit Behind the Tiger. The award is based on team spirit, sportsmanship and pride.

Luke Ottaway was also named MVP of the team and was selected to receive the Blair County Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship for 2009.

Jamie Griffith

Swimming is Her Forte

Congratulations to Sara Kaneshiki for winning the 500 freestyle and the 200 freestyle in the District VI Championship and for qualifying for the PIAA State Championship.

PIAA State Qualifiers

Congratulations to Alyssa Beyer, cross-county; Amanda Kerr, girls' golf; Mike Macionsky, boys' golf; and Sara Kaneshiki, swimming for qualifying for the PIAA State Championship.

Alyssa Beyer

Amanda Kerr

Sara Kaneshiki

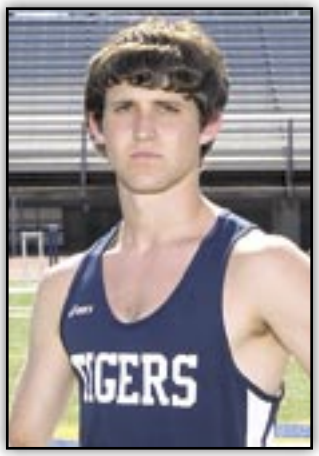
Mike Macionsky

Keeping Track

Congratulations to the following track athletes on their accomplishments! Sarabeth Williams broke the school record for the long jump at 17'5"; Kendra Jones broke the school record for pole vault at 9'6"; James Muir was the District VI High Jump Champion and qualified for the PIAA State Championship; Jack Campbell was named the District VI 400 Meter Champion and qualified for the PIAA State Championship.

Sarabeth Williams

James Muir



Jack Campbell

Teamwork

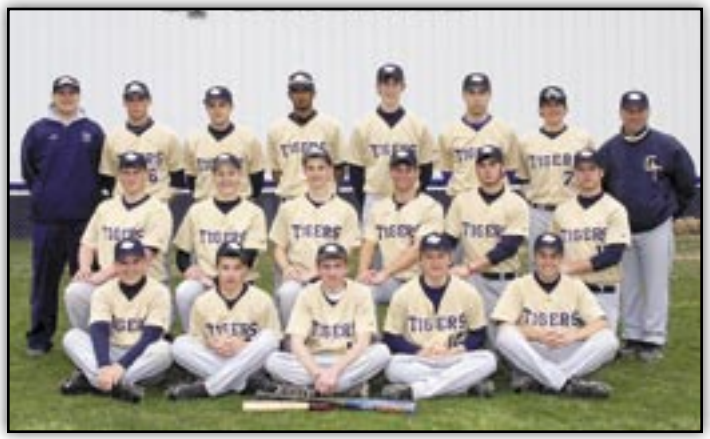
The boys' golf team won the District VI championship, capping off their perfect 14-0 season.

Girls' Golf Team
District VI team runner-up

Boys' Basketball Team
District VI runner-up

Girls' Basketball Team
District VI runner-up

Varsity Football Team
District Champions and MAC League Champions



Boys' Varsity Baseball Team
District VI Champions

Altoona Mirror All-Stars

Congratulations to Luke Ottaway, boys' basketball; Hannah Bourne, Kayla Ergler and Beth Kanski, girls' basketball; Jenna Supp, Sarah Robbins, Christen Dinger, Tyler Grigg, Bob McNair and Sarah Kaneshiki, swimming; and Andy Glass, Aaron Kovach, Neil Schroth, and Brandon Simpson, baseball for being named Altoona Mirror All-Stars.

Triple Crown Champions

Congratulations to the junior and senior high majorette squads for a successful 2009 competition season. Both squads won first place honors at the Blair, Bedford, and Cambria County majorette contests this spring.

The majorettes competed with squads from Altoona, Belle Vernon, Blairsville, Penns Manor, Tussey Mountain, Saltsburg, and United. They also received sixteen High Point Caption awards in Twirling, General Effect, Marching, and Maneuvering/Choreography.

Junior high captain Jenna Ritchey won Cambria County Junior High Miss Majorette. Eighth grade student Morgan Miller won Bedford County Junior High Miss Majorette and sophomore Erin Hilling won Cambria County Miss Senior High Majorette.

Senior High Squad Members are (front row) Captains Ashlee Long and Daylynne Miller; (second row) assistant advisor Courtney Fickes, Gretta Ghaner, Erin Hilling, Shannon Russell, and assistant advisor Carrie McKee; (back row) Mara Hesley, Cheyenne Wilt, advisor Marsena J. Fickes, Mindy Hayton, and Maddie Hesley.

Junior high squad members are (front row) Nicole Hayton, Morgan Miller, Jenna Ritchey, and Danielle Bilger; (second row) Carolyn Silvera, Harley Weigl, and Brittany Paul; and (back row) assistant advisor Carrie McKee, advisor Marsena J. Fickes, and assistant advisor Courtney Fickes.

Technology Portfolio Showcase

In April, the students, families, and staff at Allegheny One held a school-wide Technology Portfolio Showcase. Each classroom showcased completed curriculum writings, activities, and projects. Throughout the building, all faculty members spotlighted an element of technology including Cyber-Safety, Pixie, Breakthrough to Literacy, Photo Story, a Promethean Board quiz show, First in Math online program, Alpha Smarts, Jeopardy, Promethean Board curriculum integration, PowerPoint, Hands-On Equations Learning System, Accelerated Reader/STAR, and BookFlix. The main lobby and multipurpose room were transformed into an under-the-sea adventure by displaying awesome works of student art.

Students Raise Money for ACS

Students in 32 Blair County schools collectively raised more than $122,000 for the Blair Unit of the American Cancer Society by selling daffodils. Together the students sold 91,853 flowers and 1,215 “bears and bunches” to raise money that will be used for patient services, education programs, and cancer research.

The Daffodil Days project is sponsored annually by the Altoona Regional Health System, Keller Engineers, and The Patt Organization.

For the 13th straight year, Foot-of-Ten Elementary School in the Hollidaysburg Area School District topped all schools by selling 28,386 flowers and 139 bears/bunches to retain the Bob Bundy Trophy. Foot-of-Ten was the top-selling school in Pennsylvania in each of the past four years.

Foot of Ten and Frankstown Elementary Schools earned Gold Awards by raising more than $5,000.

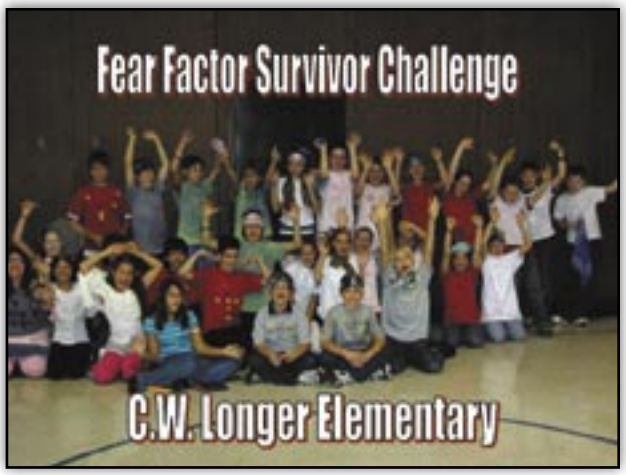
Allegheny One and Charles W. Longer Elementary were two of eight schools to collect $2,500-$3,499 and win a Bronze Award. Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School will receive a recognition plaque for selling at least 1,000 flowers. The Hollidaysburg Area Senior High was also a participant.

First Graders Learn through Song

Through a grant awarded by the Hollidaysburg Area School District Foundation, Shanon Benson’s Frankstown first graders were able to sing their way to mastering Pennsylvania state standards. The grant allowed Mrs. Benson to purchase educational learning CD’s that helped students memorize key science and social studies concepts such as naming the planets, continents, and oceans. Through music and rhyme, students also developed phonemic awareness and emergent literacy skills that reinforced reading lessons. Math concepts such as telling time and counting money were also reinforced through song.

Fear Factor

Sixth-grade students from Krista Brill and Bill Madden's classes at Charles W. Longer Elementary celebrated their hard work on their courage theme unit in reading. As a culminating class activity, the students, along with members from the community, participated in the Fear Factor Survivor Challenge. The community members who gave their time for the fun were Paul Gallagher, Superintendent of the Hollidaysburg Area School District; Linda Russo, Public Relations Director; Pat Dandrea, School Board President; Sarah Piper, Hollidaysburg Main Street Manager; and Lacey Cunningham and John Farabaugh of Stultz Real Estate.



The participants were told a courageous, adventurous tale which put them out at sea facing starvation. Their only chance of survival was to eat a fish they caught. While they did not actually eat fish parts, the food they did eat was food that had textures of different fish parts. To show their courage even more, all the students and community members wore blindfolds.

The winning tribe was the "Rockez," and the tribe members were Sandra Johnson, Elisabeth Seely, Aviya Heverly, and Courtney McCluskey. The Most Valuable Eater was Eric Sensebaugh. The best tribe design went to the "Sugar Berries." A great time was had by all involved.

Art Underwater

Charles W. Longer Elementary School art teacher, Alysia Watt and music teacher, Mary Villani hosted "Underwater Arts Night" in May. Every student had artwork on display throughout the building. The fifth and sixth grade chorus performed for the visitors during this evening of fun and sun.

Extreme Art Room Make-Over

Inspired by the popular television show, Extreme Make-Over, Frankstown second grader, McKayla Kling, wrote to the local Home Depot about how many students use the school's art room each week. She explained the lack of places for supplies and projects and even made several suggestions. The Home Depot agreed to help. After much planning, preparing, and teamwork, the Frankstown art room has been transformed.

A team from Home Depot, along with Frankstown parent volunteers, spent three days organizing, modernizing, and revising storage in the space. Shelves were built, labeled, and stocked.

Contributions by the Jim Faith Family and M&T Bank were used to complete the project. The final addition was a wooden wall unit built by Home Depot's master carpenter and a ceramic tile counter top that the Frankstown students made.

FOT Memory Garden

A Memory Garden has been established at Foot of Ten Elementary. This garden, created by third-grade teacher, Sheryl Imler and a group of parent volunteers, will help grieving children remember a loved one. Nearly 20 Foot of Ten students, past and present, have experienced the loss of a parent, sibling, or close loved one. The garden has a winding gravel pathway, a variety of perennials, some concrete accessories, and a water fountain. A beautiful bronze plaque which reads, "In Memory of Parents, Siblings, and Special Loved Ones of Foot of Ten Students," has been placed near the entrance to the garden. Money for this garden was obtained through fundraisers, individual donations, and a donation from the Foot of Ten Student Council. In addition, Mrs. Imler received a "Pay it Forward" award from the Altoona Mirror and a grant from Asera Care Hospice. All are welcome to visit this beautiful garden located near the kindergarten entrance to Foot of Ten.

Creative Communicators

The Creative Communications Poetic Achievement Award is presented to schools whose student entries to the poetry contest were of exceptionally high merit. Poems from eighteen students at Foot of Ten Elementary School were published in the spring 2009 edition of A Celebration of Young Poets.

The following students had their poetry published in the 2009 edition of A Celebration of Young Poets: (first row) Caroline Ellis, Hannah Civils, Kira Edmiston, Briana Rajakone, Austin Lowey, and Cristin Yoder; (second row) Eric Miller, Colton Ruggery, Jesse Ottaway, Brian Pheasant, Ryan Blair, Peter McMahon, Rylee Walters, Kendra Rajakone, Amarisa Miles, Emily Brown, Amanda Fink, and Loren Hecht.

Young Artists

Foot of Ten sixth-graders (first row) Caroline Ellis, Cristin Yoder, Nichole Gearhart, (back row) Bryant Hernandez, Jesse Ottaway, and Kilyan Hartman, received certificates of achievement from the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) for their participation in the "Artists of the 21st Century Art Exhibition" at Saint Francis University. Pictured with the students is art teacher Ray Wolfe.

Owl Study

Ron Nori's science class at Frankstown Elementary School completed a unit on Owls in life science. As part of the unit the students dissected owl pellets. Owl pellets are indigestible parts of animals that owls eat. Owls regurgitate three to five golf ball size pellets daily. Most pellets contain fur and bones. By studying the pellets the students were able to identify the type of animal the owl consumed. They discovered vole, mice, rats, and even birds. The students displayed the bones they classified into groups and types.

Longer Run/Walk Club

Thirty students from Charles W. Longer Elementary (CWL) participated in the Longer Run Club this year. This group of active students met several times a month after school to run, hike, play games and be physically active. Led by student organizers and several parents and staff members, members of the group logged running/walking miles completed at home and at school using pedometers supplied by CWL. They also participated in several races organized by the Hollidaysburg YMCA. Together, the group logged over 1000 miles this year.

Paper Mache Dinosaurs

Students in Lisa Surkovich's second grade at Charles W. Longer Elementary School did more than just learn about dinosaurs this year, they got to make some! Thanks to Nancy Smith, a retired art teacher, and her parent helper, Kim Gailey, the second graders had a great time learning the techniques of paper mache, painting and even naming these amazing dinosaurs.

Student Gardeners

For the tenth consecutive year, Allegheny One fourth graders joined hands with Discovery Garden volunteers to help plant the annual flower beds in the garden at Legion Park. In addition to planting, students enjoyed a guided tour to learn about the history and botany of the garden.

Continental Mathematics League

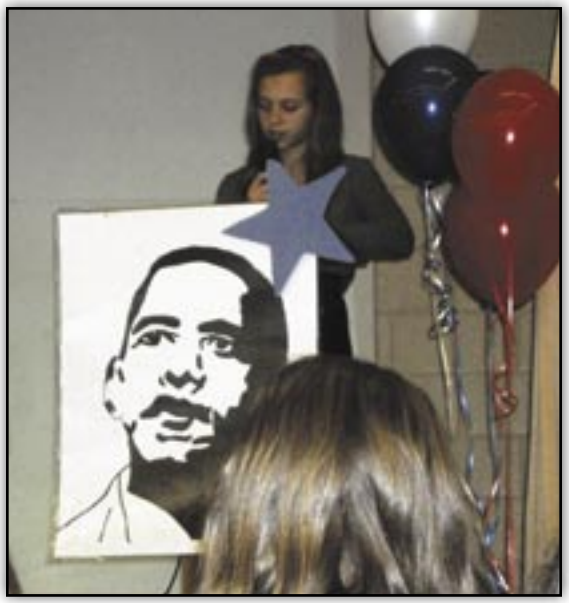
Six Foot of Ten Elementary students received high scores on the Continental Mathematics League (CML) exams. All of these students participated in the Pythagorean division and took tests over several months. Madilyn Fulchiero, second grade was awarded medals and certificates for first place and for highest scores locally. Second place honors for high scores were awarded to third graders Jonah Naugle and Daria Van Allman and to fourth grade students Cailin Brashear, Kieran Miles, and Dylan Sanders. Teacher Sharon Clewell is the advisor for the series of tests issued by the CML.

Mock Debate

In order to celebrate the monumental and historical election of 2008, the fifth and sixth grades at Allegheny One Elementary School conducted a mock debate. Students were divided into two groups. One group campaigned for Barack Obama and the other for John McCain.

During the two week process, students were divided into smaller groups and were assigned a political issue. The groups researched their issue, prepared PowerPoints, created visual aids, researched the presidential process and the many roles of the president, prepared speeches, and planned their campaign strategy for the mock debate.

To culminate this activity, students put on a mock debate for classmates and parents. The students then voted as to who won the debate on each of the seven critical issues. Finally, students used their research and debate findings to construct a persuasive writing on who they felt should be the next president of the United States.



Homework Reinforcement

Sixth graders John Crum, Lizzy McChessney, and Jeremy Smith received a fourth-place award for their poster on homework reinforcement in a statistics poster contest sponsored by Saint Francis University Science Outreach Center. There were 687 posters submitted for judging.

The poster was based on a survey on homework reinforcement that they created and administered to all fourth through six graders. First, the group made a hypothesis for the homework reinforcement they felt would be the favorite, and then they tallied up all of the surveys to see if their hypothesis was correct. After instructions on creating graphs in Microsoft Excel, they created graphs to match the results of their homework reinforcement survey.

As a result of their fourth-place award, the poster was entered into a national statistics poster contest where the students received honorable mention. Their poster was one of only three in the fourth- through sixth-grade division to receive this honor.

Autism Awareness Month

Brandy Gregg and Diane Wargo's kindergarten classes celebrated Autism Awareness Month in April. The students participated in many activities to raise awareness about this complex developmental disability. Students constructed a ribbon and displayed it in the hallway depicting various facts and statements about autism, and they wore ribbons to show their support for the growing cause. The two classes also participated in various learning activities to help understand what it may be like for peers who have autism.

Water Festival

As part of their preparation for the environment and ecology sections of the science PSSA, Allegheny One fourth grade classes hosted the Water Festival presented by the Blair County Conservation District. Each student rotated through four hands-on demonstration labs where they studied our local watershed, stream water quality, and macro-invertebrate populations. They also learned about water chemistry, lentic and lotic water systems, pollution, and the ancient Japanese art of Gyotako (fish painting) used to document record catches.

Eggs-perts in Genetics!

Two sixth-grade teams used Egg-ceptional thinking skills and Egg-splored a science interest with Eggnoggin, an online science tournament. The topic for fall 2008 was genetics. The students met, studied, and organized areas of interest. In-depth research, the ability to work as a team, and fun were combined as the students competed with others across the United States. The sixth grade teams place first and second in their division. Sharon Clewell, gifted support specialist, and Polly Wiley, sixth-grade teacher, Allegheny One coached the students.

First place winners and members of the Foot of Ten team were Jesse Ottaway, Emily Naugle, Wyatt Cree, Cody Farabaugh, Austin Lowey, Peter McMahon, Briana Rajakone, Kendra Rajakone, Kaylie Gallager, Amarisa Miles, and Kilyan Hartman.

Second place winners and members of the Allegheny One team were sixth graders Tracey Collier, Taylor Pond, Kelsey Pondo, Tyler Huss, Jacob Barton, Gage Hollingshead, Christian Strayer, Mark McGarvey, Lyndsey Longstreth, Sami Osborn, Zoi Beckwith, Monica Duraso, and fifth grader Maaz Siddiqui.

Right on the Money

Parents and students from Charles W. Longer and Allegheny One Elementary schools participated in a four-week program entitled, Right on the Money. The program, developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Financial Education was taught by Lisa and Tim Surkovich, Hollidaysburg Area School District employees.

During the course, parents and students learned about planning, saving, borrowing, and spending money. All students who participated received four books, a wallet, and made a piggy bank. Parents received financial planning binders, calculators, and filing systems. The program was funded in part through a grant from the Hollidaysburg Area School District Foundation. Donations were also made by Meadows, Sheetz, Inc., Staples, and Tijuana Flats.

Dive Into Reading

"Dive into Reading" – a fun filled program aimed at improving reading skills – was held in April. Over 100 parents, elementary students, and grandparents attended the annual event.

The goal of the program is to teach parents how to help their children with reading and homework. The nine district elementary reading specialists discussed informational texts, a type of non-fiction that conveys information about the world in which we live. During the workshop, parents were given a variety of items to use at home to improve their child's reading comprehension.

"It is important to make a home-school connection with parents; we need to work as a team for academic growth," Linda Dobbie, Director of Elementary Curriculum said.

While parents were involved in the workshop, the students were learning about the ocean, sea life, lakes, and water habitats. Students received "Dive into Reading" gear including National Geographic books about oceans, sea life, lakes and water habitats, vocabulary ink stampers, and book markers.

At the end of the evening, students and parents received markers, pens, crayons, aquatic life stickers, and a blank book for creating a story about the ocean or water habitats. The completed books were shared during school.

Students Visit Garvey Manor

Allegheny One Student Council members visited Garvey Manor Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility in Hollidaysburg to celebrate Valentine's Day with the residents. Valentines and small gifts created by students were distributed while students put together a craft project with residents. Student council hopes to continue these newly-formed friendships by visiting residents each year.

Ottaway Wins VFW Art Contest

Sixth-grade student Jesse Ottaway received first place awards at the local and state level for his art entry in the 2008 Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Loyalty Day art contest. Jesse's artwork depicted Marines in combat uniforms raising the American Flag.

For his accomplishments Jesse received the first issue of presidential gold coins from Martinsburg D. Merl Tipton, VFW Post 43, and received $50 from VFW District 22. He also received a plaque and $50 for his first place entry at the state competition.

Read Across America

Frankstown Elementary School's cafeteria staff and bus drivers went above and beyond to help students celebrate Read Across America. Frankstown students enjoyed seeing *The Cat in the Hat* in all sorts of unusual places. They found it reading books on the school buses and serving healthy lunches. Bus drivers volunteered to read Dr. Seuss books to students waiting to enter school. Cafeteria personnel served up some good lunches while dressed as *The Cat in the Hat*. Frankstown students and staff really appreciate the extra efforts of our bus drivers and cafeteria personnel to help make Frankstown a great place to work and learn.

Lori Benner, Beverly Wertz, and Mary Campbell serve up a healthy lunch during Frankstown Elementary School's Read Across America celebration.

The Heartbreakers: Elisabeth Seely, Ashley Hazlett, Kirsten Eaton, and Alyssa Brown came ready to rock!

Students Rock!

The sixth-grade students at Charles W. Longer Elementary School incorporated the video game Rock Band into the classroom, and it rocked!

In preparation for the reading PSSA, the sixth-grade teachers had the students group themselves into bands early in the year for "Rock Band: Battle of the Bands Day." Leading up to the event the students read non-fiction passages and answered questions using the Pennsylvania State Scoring Rubric. After they answered, they had to trade their responses with another band for that band to score them. The teachers kept score. The highest scoring bands received the higher seed on "Rock Band: Battle of the Bands Day."

After the PSSA's were over, the students dressed up and came to school ready to rock. There was 100% participation with the rock star outfits. The Best Dressed Band Award went to "The Steel Maidens." Band members included Aviya Heverly, Jesip Gresham, Sandra Johnson, and Courtney McCluskey.

The teachers had a band, too, called "Olde School." Each band got to perform in the morning, but the winning band, "Courtney and Da Homies", got to put on a concert in the afternoon for the entire school. "Courtney and Da Homies" band members included Courtney Noal, Ali Treglia, and Olivia Drake.

The sixth graders had a tremendous amount of fun while working extremely hard throughout the year. By incorporating Rock Band into school, the students had engaged in a meaningful and memorable learning experience.

Puzzle Solved

Students in Emily Padamonsky's reading classes at Frankstown and Charles W. Longer Elementary Schools participated in a parent involvement project called, "Build a Cheeseburger Puzzle by Puzzle." Once a week for six weeks, students took home a crossword puzzle to do with an adult partner. Students completed the "ACROSS" part of the puzzle, and their partners did the "DOWN" part.

When students returned the completed puzzle each week, they received a part of the cheeseburger--bun, burger, cheese, lettuce, tomato, bun--made of construction paper until the burger was completed. The building of the cheeseburgers was displayed in the halls at both schools.

Incentives were given each week after the puzzle was returned. After six weeks, students were rewarded with a Happy Meal, compliments of McDonald's. They had lunch with Mrs. Padamonsky in her classroom which was converted into a fancy restaurant. Principals Frank Filkosky and Timothy Gildea were special guests at these dinners. Each student also received a small stuffed cheeseburger, compliments of the Padamonskys' skee ball playing skills at the beach.

Mrs. Padamonsky received many nice notes from parents who said they learned many different things from the puzzle topics which included, "squirrels," "ducks," "rhyme time," and "sailing." Parents also said they looked forward to the puzzles each week and enjoyed the time spent with their child.

Students Help to Feed the Hungry

During the holiday season, Lauren Ondecko's math class at Charles W. Longer Elementary School participated in a program called Free Rice. Free Rice is an internet-based learning program operated by the United Nations that helps feed millions of people throughout the world. In addition to helping hungry children around the globe, students collected pledges from friends and family members for each bowl of rice earned through the Free Rice program. The money raised through pledges was donated to Froggy 98's Christmas Carol.

Frankstown Student Council Adopts Highway

Frankstown Student Council members adopted a two-mile stretch of Reservoir Road. The Adopt-a-Highway Maintenance Cooperation requires sponsors to clean the portion of the highway twice a year. On Saturday, May 9 members spent the early part of the morning creating a beautiful and litter-free environment. Fifteen students, accompanied by several parent and teacher volunteers, wore gloves and orange vests and picked-up the debris along the road while they held signs that read "Caution: Litter Crew Ahead." It was a great experience for students to learn the importance of volunteering and the impact that littering has on a community.

Thankful Students

As part of Allegheny One's character education program, students focused on sharing and having an "Attitude of Gratitude" in daily life. The school coined the word "thanksliving" and asked everyone to focus on things to be thankful for in big and small ways each and every day.

As part of the program, the group decided to show our servicemen and women that they are never far from our hearts by sponsoring Valentine care packages. The students collected cards, snacks, and monetary donations, and shipped over a dozen care packages to various bases of friends and family in the district. Each package included a thank-you banner for the company to display in their community rooms.

Fourth Grade Luau

Students in Lauren Ondecko's and Jessica Shaw's fourth-grade classes at Charles W. Longer Elementary celebrated the end of PSSA's with a luau party. The students began their month long "journey" across the United States in Hollidaysburg and traveled to Pittsburgh, Chicago, Denver, and San Diego while researching attractions and popular tourist sites in each city. As a culmination to the trip across the United States, the final destination was a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii and a luau party filled with food, activities, and tropical games. They had a wonderful, fun-filled day!

Frankstown Tigers New Adventures in Reading

The Frankstown Tigers Book Club dove into reading and competed in the spring and fall Interscholastic Reading Competitions. Teams consisted of fifth and sixth graders who are members of the club. The students earned two second place ribbons at the fall competition and a first and third place ribbon at the spring competition.

For fifteen weeks students and coaches gathered in the library after school to discuss selected readings. They shared connections and comprehension about the various types of books read from the required 42 book reading list.

Team coaches were Ann Franco, Danielle Giles, Virginia Rickard, and Elizabeth Tully.

Team 1 earned a first place ribbon at the spring competition. Members were (first row) Sydney Lezzer, Sarah Everett, Juliana Franco, and Max Gehringer; (second row) Makenzie Wilkinson, and Esther Elkins; (third row) Sara Ollinger, Jessie Nagle, and Farrah Younes; and (back row) teachers Ann Franco and Danielle Giles.

Team 2 earned a third place ribbon at the spring reading competition. Pictured are (first row) Blake Walter, Alexis Robbins, and Colleen Murphy; (second row) Rommy Obeid, Michael Ollinger, and Sierra Cobler; (third row) Andrew Sauerland, Joey Fleck, and Chelsea Quarrelo; (back row) and Beth Tully and Virginia Rickard.

Fall Book Club Team 2 members included (first row) Sierra Cobler, Mckennah Rabel, Rachel Khalouf, Victoria Dalanti, Reid Miller, Blake Walter, Rommy Obeid, and Andrew Sauerland; (second row) Esther Elkins, Colleen Murphy, Katie Servello, Beth Tully, Molly Garrity, Michael Ollinger, and Max Gehringer.

Fall Book Club Team 1 members included (first row) Alexis Robbins, Julianna Franco, Sydney Lezzer, Alyssa Pheasant, Justin Harpster, and Joey Fleck; (second row) Makenzie Wilkinson, Tia Ventura, Farrah Younes, Sierra Kirsch, Madeline Fisher, Matthew Viego, and Daniel Stubbs; (third row) Sara Ollinger, Ann Franco, and Danielle Giles.

Student Planters

In September, members of the Blair County Spade and Trowel Club visited second-grade students at Foot of Ten Elementary School to teach them about fall planting.

Every second-grade student was presented with three daffodil bulbs which were planted in the school's environmental center in October. Parent volunteers, teachers, and members of the Spade and Trowel Club assisted with the planting.

Pictured are (front row) Jacob Gallagher and Lindsey Everett; (second row) Jessalyn Smith, Mitchell Martin, Mackenzie Cunningham, Gus Dellinger, Noah Gochnour, and Ayrika Orr; (back row) Blair County Spade and Trowel members, Pat Deyarmin, Arlene Gildea, and Nancy Daniels.

Emily Naugle, Cassie Cronauer, Audrey Simpson, Randy Lanzendorfer, Leigh Ann Shoemaker, Abigail Reigh, and physical education teacher Andy Aikens

Walking Track

The Foot of Ten walking track – made possible by a grant from Lowes Toolbox for Education and installed by Grannas Brother – is seeing a lot of miles logged by students and staff.

The goal of the walking track is to encourage students and staff to incorporate exercise into their daily routine.

Last year, Foot of Ten students were challenged to walk across the United States. They met their goals by walking nearly 4,000 miles, reaching California and almost making it back home by the end of the school year!

This year students earned a "foot charm" for every 2 miles walked. Students proudly wear their "feet" on necklaces purchased through a generous donation from New Pig Corporation.

The top walker at Foot of Ten was sixth grader Cassie Cronauer who has amassed over 80 miles since the start of the year.

Teatime at Frankstown Elementary

Teachers Adele Giller and Tiffany Stuckey invited students to high tea as a culminating activity for reading the novel *A View from Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg. The students had an opportunity to sample ruggelach and bobka, which were mentioned in the text, and enjoyed scones, fancy tea sandwiches, and several other culinary delights.

The book by E. L. Konigsburg weaves the theme of kindness through the lives of four students and their teacher during their sixth-grade year. The reader follows each student's individual story as they overcome life's challenges from a first person point of view. From mysterious invitations to tea at the Sillington House, to the events surrounding the Academic Bowl, the reader is drawn into this wonderful story. Frankstown students were able to relate experiences happening in their lives to the events that were taking place in the story. They were in sixth grade and about to take part in Frankstown's Brain Bowl. They too, had faced some of life's trials (losing someone, moving, divorce, making friends). The students enjoyed reading this novel immensely and had a wonderful time at tea!

Math and Science Saturday

More than 200 students in kindergarten through sixth grades participated in the annual "Math and Science Saturday" at Foot of Ten Elementary. Students participated in three different hands-on activities conducted by local volunteers with a math or science background. Some of the more than twenty five topics presented were: Under the Microscope, Popsicle Kool Aid, Water Works, Water Olympics, Invasions of Awesome Insects, Weather Wonders, Wind Turbines, Cool Colors, Microscopic Protists, Hydrogen Fuel Cell Cars, Polymers, Marshmallow Math in 3D, Inside Fish, Birthday Party Chemistry, and Constructing a Quick Bridge. The morning's events closed with a large group science presentation conducted by Dr. Mike Bukowski from Penn State Altoona.

Penn State engineering student David Imler shows the hydrogen powered car to Wyatt Cree, Jesse Ottaway, Rebecca Murgo, Amanda Fulton, and Sara Kyler.

EDUCATORS

HASD wishes to honor the following staff on their recent retirements:

Ronald Barlick, science, junior high, 36 years
William Conway, assistant principal, junior high, 22 years
Elva Jean Dolinger, instructional support,
Charles W. Longer/Allegheny One, 17 years
Barbara Fanelli, special education paraprofessional, 15 years
Suzann Glover, paraprofessional, Allegheny One, 10 years
Thomas Haluska, vocational services, junior high, 32 years
Barry Lingenfelter, custodian, senior high, 28 years
Deborah Reighard, reading, junior high, 34 years
Elizabeth Slat, learning support, Frankstown, 17 years
Linda Stevens, English, junior high, 24 years
Linda Wilson, guidance counselor, senior high, 17 years
Grover Yingling, custodian, junior high, 30 years

Sinal Presents at Annual Meeting

Junior high history teacher Jean Sinal was among a select group of individuals chosen to present at the National Council for History Education (NCHE) Conference that was held in Boston, MA in March. The topics of her presentations included The Industrial Revolution, Johnstown Flood, and "Land Use Practices: A Recipe for Disaster."

Jean Sinai

Stiles Recognized

At the cast party for *AIDA*, Hollidaysburg Area Repertory Players and their parent organization honored Russell Stiles, Drama Department Chairperson, with a beautiful plaque celebrating 20 years of musicals for the Hollidaysburg Area School District.

The plaque lists every musical that Stiles directed along with the year of the performance. Approximately 60 alumni were in attendance.

Russell Stiles

TI:ME President Melissa Ott Presents at Music Educator's Conference

The Technology Institute for Music Educator's held its third annual in-service in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Music Educator's Conference in April. This year's electronic playground was hosted by TI:ME and the Sound Tree Corporation.

Music teacher Melissa Ott conducted a workshop on using Smart Music in elementary instrumental lessons. Mrs. Ott's demonstrated how students can perform with or without accompaniment at any tempo and make recordings. The electronic playground provided music teachers the opportunity to explore various programs and gain insight from other professionals in their content area on implementing technology into their music classrooms.

Melissa Ott

Mrs. Ott, who has served for the past three years as PA TI:ME state secretary was elected PA TI:ME President. TI:ME is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to assist music educators in applying technology to improve teaching and learning in music.

Imler Receives Excellence in Science Teaching Award

Sheryl Imler, third-grade teacher at Foot of Ten Elementary School was the recipient of the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh 2008-2009 Elementary School "Excellence in Science Teaching" Award. The award consisted of a $1,000 honorarium and a plaque.

Sheryl Imler

Foundation Dedicated to Supporting Educational Programs

Dedicated to supporting the educational mission of the HASD, the foundation has awarded more than $175,000 in grants to teachers for innovative programs, artist-in-residence, special activities, clubs, and more since its inception in 1997, and nearly $100,000 for special programs through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. The foundation awards two types of grants:

Venture Grants are used to support the innovative teaching and learning initiatives within the district and enable unique teaching strategies to become reality. These grants put funds directly into the classroom and often lead to subsequent enhancements of the school's regular curriculum.

The Educator-in-Residence Grants are designed to bring guest artists, educators, diplomats, authors and a host of others to the district to enrich the learning process. The educators-in-residence share their expertise with students, teachers, staff and members of the community.

Additionally, the foundation board of directors has worked with numerous families to establish scholarship programs that benefit Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School students.

It is through the generosity of local businesses, school district employees, alumni, community members, and other organizations that the HASD Foundation has been able to provide these resources to enhance the district's educational programs.

A heartfelt thank you to the following contributors:

Golden Tiger $250+

Blair Mill Outlet
Doris Criswell
Philip and Lugene Delozier
Eastern Industries, Inc.
Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.
Future Business Leaders of America, HAHS *
Paul Gallagher
Hollidaysburg Rotary
Michael Humphrey and Jane Rowe
Troy and Becky Keefer
Dr. and Mrs. Fred Khalouf
Lasser's Shoe Fly
Joe and Betsy Lehman
Lexington Two, Inc.
Fred and Nancy Marschak
Martin's Food Markets, LLC.
Maxwell Transit Systems, Inc.
Linda McCall
Joel and Darla Meadows
Shirley Norman - *in memory of Niles E. Norman and Joseph Hackenberg*
North American Communications, Inc.
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William and Emily Padamonsky *
Gary and Nancy Robinson **
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* *Lester McCall*
** *Mary McCloskey*

Mission Statement

The mission of the HASD Foundation is to put ideas for enhanced education into action by funding innovative programs, broadening teaching and learning opportunities, and encouraging community involvement.

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Nagy and Rodgers Named Educators-of-the-Year

Wendy Jo Nagy, junior/senior high music teacher, and Catherine Rodgers, second-grade teacher, Charles W. Longer Elementary School, were named the 2008-2009
Hollidaysburg Area School District Foundation (HASD) Educators-of-the-Year.

In recognition of their accomplishments, each received a $250 classroom grant from the HASD Foundation; a watch compliments of Beerbower Jewelers; and a crystal apple from Horace Mann Insurance.

This award was created by the HASD Foundation Board of Directors to recognize exceptional teachers for their devotion to education and their inspiration to children. It is presented annually to two outstanding educators, one at the secondary level and one at the elementary level.

Cathy Rodgers, 2009 Elementary Educator-of the-Year poses with her second-grade class.

WendyJo Nagy, 2009 Secondary Educator-of-the-Year poses with her music students.